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TO: MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Examiner Thanh Ha T. Dang

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FROM: Gero G. McClellan / Jon K. Stewart

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ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW? ☐ YES ☒ NO

RE:

TITLE: ABSTRACT DATA LINKING AND JOINING INTERFACE

U.S. SERIAL NO.: 10/618,409

FILING DATE: July 11, 2003

INVENTOR(S): Richard D. Dettinger et al.

EXAMINER: Thanh Ha T. Dang

GROUP ART UNIT: 2163

CONFIRMATION NO.: 5540

Attached for the above-referenced application is an APPEAL BRIEF.

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PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920030129US1
PS Ref. No.: IBMK30129

DEC 28 2005

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of:
Richard D. Dettinger et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,409

Confirmation No.: 5540

Filed: July 11, 2003

For: **ABSTRACT DATA LINKING
AND JOINING INTERFACE**

[illegible]

Group Art Unit: 2163

Examiner: Thanh Ha T. Dang

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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December 28, 2005
Date

Don K. Stewart

APPEAL BRIEF

Applicants submit this Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on appeal from the decision of the Examiner of Group Art Unit 2163 dated July 28, 2005, finally rejecting claims 1-5, 7-10 and 21-33. The final rejection of claims 21-33 is appealed. This Appeal Brief is believed to be timely since facsimile transmitted by the due date of December 28, 2005, as set by mailing a Notice of Appeal on October 28, 2005. Please charge the fee of \$500.00 for filing this brief to Deposit Account No. 09-0465 / ROC920030129US1.

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Real Party in Interest

The present application has been assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York.

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PS Ref. No.: IBMK30129

Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant asserts that no other appeals or Interferences are known to the Applicant, the Applicant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

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PS Ref. No.: IBMK30129

Status of Claims

Claims 21-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-33 were originally presented in the application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 21-33 stand finally rejected as discussed below. The final rejections of claims 21-33 are appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Claims Appendix.

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Status of Amendments

All claim amendments have been entered by the Examiner, including amendments to the claims proposed after the final rejection.

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PS Ref. No.: IBMK30129

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claimed embodiments provide a method, apparatus and article of manufacture that provide an interface allowing users to specify how to link or join query result fields as part of a query composition process. See *Application*, ¶¶ 39, 54, 71-94, Abstract. The interface may display a set of input cells for user-selected logical result fields. See *Application*, ¶¶ 82-83. Users select the location of a logical result fields to specify how to link or join sets of data retrieved for the query result fields. See *Application*, ¶¶ 83-87.

One claimed embodiment (see e.g., claims 21-24) provides a method for building queries. The method includes, providing a logical model to logically describe the physical fields, the logical model comprising logical fields corresponding to respective physical fields. See *Application*, ¶¶ 41-53 (physical view of database environment) and ¶¶ 54-70 (logical view of database environment). The method also includes providing a graphical user interface allowing user selection and arrangement of logical result fields selected from the logical model. See *Application*, ¶ 83, 84 Figure 14, 1400 (result field linking GUI and table 1404), Figures 15-16. Using the result field linking GUI, users specify a selection and a location, in the graphical user interface, of a first logical result field and a second logical field. See *Id.* The relative geometric relationship of the first and second logical result fields define at least a portion of an abstract query. See *application*, ¶ 84 ("The user determines the structure of the resulting query by selecting the relative position of the available result fields"). The method also includes transforming the abstract query into an executable query containing at least one combinatorial statement containing representations of the first and second logical result fields, and being generated as a result of the relative geometric relationship. See *Application*, ¶ 84, 89, Figures 3, 4, 16, 17.

Another claimed embodiment (see e.g., claims 25, 26), includes a computer readable medium containing a graphical user interface program configured to perform an operation for building abstract queries. The operation includes receiving user input specifying a selection and a location, in the graphical user interface, of a first logical